

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A multichannel pipette system for aspirating and/or dispensing fluid into multiple fluid receptacles comprising:
 - a pipettor having at least one body and two or more plungers;
 - one or more removable pipette tip arrays, wherein the removable pipette tip arrays mate to the at least one body of the pipettor, and wherein each tip array has more than one tip;
 - a flexible membrane positioned between the tip arrays and the plungers, the membrane forming a static seal with the tip arrays, wherein the flexible membrane is connected to the one or more removable pipette tip arrays by one or more clamps;
 - wherein the static seal between the flexible membrane and the tip arrays is formed in part with a sealing agent selected from the group consisting of grease, lubricant, oil, silicon fluid, or silicon oil.
2. (Original) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the pipettor is an automated pipettor.
3. (Currently amended) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the system is configured to automatically align the more than one tips [[are automatically aligned]] with the fluid receptacles.
4. (Currently amended) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the system is configured to dispense fluid from the one or more pipette tip arrays [[are configured to dispense fluid]] into multiple fluid receptacles are within a multiwell plate.

5. (Currently amended) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the one or more removable tip arrays comprise four tips or sixteen tips in a square array, the array corresponding to wells in a microplate.

6. (Currently amended) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the one or more removable tip arrays comprise 1536, 384, 96, 24, 12, or 6 tips in a rectangular array, the array corresponding to wells in a microplate.

7. (Currently amended) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the one or more removable tip arrays comprise 48, 32, 24, 16, 12, or 8 tips in a linear, the array corresponding to wells, rows or columns in a microplate.

8. (Original) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 comprising an equal number of bodies, plungers, and tip arrays, with one plunger traveling in each body.

9. (Original) The multichannel pipette system of claim 8 wherein each tip array mates to a body.

10. (Currently amended) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the one or more tip arrays each further comprise a flexible membrane, the membrane forming a static seal with the tip array.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the flexible membrane is held by a frame, the frame having a center region, and the flexible membrane spans the center region of the frame.

15. (Currently amended) The multichannel pipette system of claim 1 wherein the one or more tip arrays are formed of plastic, metal or combinations thereof.

16. (Original) The multichannel pipette system of claim 14 wherein each tip array includes a mating feature at its edge for mating with the frame.

17-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A multichannel pipette system for aspirating and/or dispensing fluid into multiple fluid receptacles comprising:

a pipettor having at least one body and two or more plungers;

one or more removable pipette tip arrays, wherein the removable pipette tip arrays mate to the at least one body of the pipettor, and wherein each tip array has more than one tip;

a sealing element including a removable frame having an open regions and a flexible membrane attached to the frame and positioned between the tip arrays and the plungers, the membrane forming a static seal with the tip arrays, wherein the flexible membrane is connected to the one or more removable pipette tip arrays by one or more clamps;

wherein the static seal between the flexible membrane and the tip arrays is formed in part with a sealing agent.

33. (New) The multichannel pipette system of claim 32, wherein the frame is approximately of the same shape as a proximal end of a respective pipette tip array.

34. (New) The multichannel pipette system of claim 32, wherein the frame is a rectangular shape.

35. (New) The multichannel pipette system of claim 32, wherein the frame is formed of a rigid material.

36. (New) The multichannel pipette system of claim 32, wherein the rigid material is selected from the group comprising plastic, metal, rigid foam, rigid paper, and/or cardboard.